

WEDDING POLICY AND INFORMATION
MAY 2008

WEBB CHAPEL UNITED MEHODIST CHURCH
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TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM:

We are happy that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage covenant in the church, and we look forward to sharing with you the joy and excitement of this important event in your lives.

We recognize that marriage is sacred and a precious gift of God. To be married in the church is to affirm that God's love is the source of the faith, hope and love you will need to keep your commitment and to grow with it.

This manual has been prepared to help you, together with the Pastor, music director, and wedding director, to plan ceremonies which are both a service of worship and a personal expression of the love you have for each other.

The Church maintains certain policies which all of us must understand as we go about planning a wedding. In order to be fair to you and candid about some of the more important policies, we have stated them on the following pages.

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE SERVICE

The marriage ceremony is one of the most sacred and beautiful of all the services of the church. A Christian wedding is never only a social event but is always a service of worship in which two persons, in the company of their loved ones and friends, pledge themselves to each other under the blessing of God and are united by God in Holy Matrimony.

A service Christian Marriage should explicitly and symbolically emphasize the Christian view of marriage. Customarily "The Marriage Service" found in *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Book of Worship* will be followed. Any proposed alteration or addition to the service should express the Christian understanding of marriage set forth in that service. The minister in charge of the service will be happy to discuss such alterations or additions.

THE ROLE OF THE MINISTER

The minister of Webb Chapel United Methodist Church shall officiate at all wedding ceremonies. A minister who is not a Webb Chapel United Methodist Church may be invited to assist in the ceremony. Such a request should be made to the Webb Chapel minister. The Webb Chapel minister shall issue all invitations for an outside minister.

If in some cases an outside minister is to officiate at the ceremony, the minister of Webb Chapel shall issue the invitation, and the minister of Webb Chapel shall be a part of the ceremony.

Every couple being married by the Webb Chapel pastor will be required to meet for counseling sessions. These sessions are designed to establish a personal relationship, and create a meaningful ceremony and prepare the couple for married life. It is the couple's responsibility to initiate contact for these counseling sessions.

SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

It is very important that all arrangements for wedding services, rehearsals, and receptions be scheduled as far in advance as possible with the Church office, including all dates, exact hours, etc. After the first conference with the minister and a deposit of fees is made, weddings, wedding rehearsals, and receptions are scheduled on the master calendar by the Church secretary. Public announcement that a wedding will take place at Webb Chapel should not be made until this has been done. Weddings and rehearsals cannot be scheduled on days when the church is officially closed or worship services are scheduled, such as the days of Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday), Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

